



By Catherine Lemann

Mapping Our Future

I always leave AALL's Annual Meeting full of ideas and enthusiasm, and 2009 is no exception. This year's theme, "Innovate," provided ample inspiration for sharing creative ideas. Paul George and the 2009 Annual Meeting Program Committee made available an exciting array of educational programs on many interesting topics. The Washington, D.C., Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Judy Gaskell and Carla Evans, did a fabulous job of hosting in a city with so much to do and see. The opening event at the Library of Congress was an impressive location to kick off our conference.

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be in Denver, July 10–13. The frontier location near the Rockies inspired the theme, *Summit 2010: Mapping our Future*. Denver is an appropriate city in which to hold such a summit and discuss our future. As a fairly young city, Denver has grown from a gold rush town to a major gateway between the Midwest and West Coast. The city has evolved into an interesting mix of diverse neighborhoods with plenty of opportunities nearby for outdoor adventure. Denver promotes sustainable development and is eco-friendly, a vision that will sustain the city long into the future.

The economic conditions in the country and the legal community have recently forced changes that we might not have anticipated a year ago. How do we adapt to a future of increasingly networked institutions, technological change, and budget constraints? The 2010 Annual Meeting Program Committee, chaired by Steve Anderson, anticipates that *Summit 2010* will provide the opportunity for us to learn practical insights from our colleagues to deal with these challenges. We hope to explore creative ways of envisioning libraries and information services for the future.

2009-2010 Plans

Recent AALL presidents have provided vision to accomplish new initiatives. Sally Holterhoff's Advocacy Summit, Ann Fessenden's efforts to improve leadership opportunities, and James Duggan's plans to revamp AALLNET have strengthened AALL. My year will be a chance to assess where we are and to map the future of the Association.

Annual Meeting Review Special Committee

I am appointing one special committee: the Annual Meeting Review Special Committee. The Annual Meeting is our chance to gather together the various Association entities, special interest sections, committees, caucuses, and chapters. Chaired by Kim Serna of Jones Day in Houston, the committee will look at the organization of the meeting, educational and social events, and trends in conference attendance across other industries.

We recently shortened the meeting by one day. Special interest sections can present programs at the same time as programs selected by the Annual Meeting Program Committee. I firmly believe that the benefits provided by our Annual Meeting—the face-to-face interaction, networking opportunities, educational programs, and social events—are vital to improving us individually and collectively.

Strategic Plan

We are nearing the end of our current Strategic Plan. The Executive Board

Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Jean Wenger, will be guiding the Association through the

process of examining where we are and where we want to go. There will be opportunities for all members and member entities to submit comments. I hope that you will assist us in creating the next plan. Look for the next AALL Strategic Plan in spring 2010.

AALLNET Strategic Planning

The AALLNET Strategic Planning Special Committee will continue its work this year to launch a new and improved website. AALLNET is an important resource for AALL members, and I expect members will appreciate a new look and much improved functionality.

It is a privilege and honor to serve as AALL president. I look forward to continue meeting and working with the talented, diverse, enthusiastic members who strengthen and support AALL. ■

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